

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 SIL-01 COME-00 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6757

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, US, RO

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S FIRST CALL ON ROMANIAN PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: DURING 70- MINUTE FIRST MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 25, PRIME MINISTER MANEA MANESCU SAID HIS GOVERNMENT SHARED US DESIRES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL TIES; PLEDGED HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANCE IN MUTUAL EFFORT; TRACED HISTORY OF HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH; AND INDICATED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES WOULD CONTINUE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE DIALOGUE WITH ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT ON BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES, PRIME MINISTER MANESCU SAID HIS EXPERIENCE AS FIRST CHAIRMAN OF ROMANIAN-AMERICAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION, HIS TRAVEL AND HIGH-LEVEL CONVERSATIONS DURING SEVERAL TRIPS TO US, AND HIS PERSONAL PRE-MINISTERIAL INVOLVEMENT WITH US OIL INDUSTRIALISTS IN PLOESTI MADE HIM WELL-INFORMED LEADER IN ADVANCING US-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS. THESE RELATIONS WERE GOOD, AND WE SHOULD REACH \$1 BILLION TRADE TARGET BY 1980, BUT THERE WAS CLEAR POTENTIAL FOR MORE RAPID EXPANSION IN JOINT INDUSTRIAL VENTURES. THE CONTROL DATA AND ISLAND CREEK COAL PROJECTS

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WERE ONLY CONCRETE REALIZATIONS FROM VAST DOSSIER OF PROPOSALS.

3. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT FOURTH MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION HAD REVIEWED SITUATION AND IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS SLOWING OR PREVENTING DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL PROJECTS. ON US SIDE, THERE WAS DESIRE FOR SYSTEMATIC, RAPID, AND SUSTAINED EFFORT TO MOVE AHEAD. BOTH US BUSINESS AND USG WOULD

APPRECIATE PRIMIN'S PERSONAL SUPPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS  
AND ON PROBLEMS FACING PRESENT AND POTENTIAL US INVESTORS.

4. MANESCU SAID US AND ROMANIA WERE PIONEERS IN PETROLEUM  
INDUSTRY. WHILE NO NATIONA REALLY RIVALED OVERALL US SUPERIORITY  
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ROMANIA WAS PROUD OF ITS RECORD IN  
PETROCHEMICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. IN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO  
AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT IN CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION SPEECH,  
PRIMIN ADMITTED MORE COULD BE DONE IN BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC  
COOPERATION. HE ESTIMATED QUALITY OF CULTURAL AND SPORTS  
EXCHANGES WITH US AS GOOD.

5. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION AS TO PERSPECTIVE  
AND FUTURE PRIORITIES OF ROMANIAN DEVELOPMENT, MANESCU GAVE  
HALF-HOUR EXPOSE OF GNP, INDUSTRIAL, SOCIAL, AND OTHER PUBLIC  
GAINS OF LAST SEVEN YEARS. ROMANIA, HE SAID, HAD BECOME STATE  
WHERE AVERAGE LONGEVITY NOW 70 AND UNEMPLOYMENT VIRTUALLY  
NONEXISTENT. THIS WAS DUE TO PRIORITIES ON INDUSTRIALIZATION,  
TRANSPORTATION, AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION, HOUSING AND HEALTH.  
HE LISTED CONSUMER GOODS LAST WITHOUT STRESSING ITS LOWEST  
PRIORITY AND INDICATED THAT ROMANIA WOULD SEEK TO IMPROVE  
LABOR'S WORKING CONDITIONS IN 1978. HE DID NOT SUGGEST ANY  
CHANGE IN ORDER OF DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES.

6. MANESCU ENDED LONG AND MOST FRIENDLY MEETING BY PRESENTING  
AMBASSADOR COPY OF HIS BROCHURE ON ROMANIA'S NATIONAL WEALTH AND  
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INDICATING HIS WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE US ENVOY FREQUENTLY.  
AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUCH A SUBSTANTIVE FIRST  
MEETING AND HIS DESIRE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRIMIN'S KNOWLEDGE  
AND INTEREST IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS TO MOVE THEN AYLAD MORE  
RAPIDLY.

7. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MANESCU FAITHFULLY REFLECTS  
GOR'S CURRENT VIEW ON ECONOMIC PRIORITIES. DESPITE CERTAIN  
INDICATIONS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRESS FLOWING FROM HEAD-LONG  
DASH TOWARD INDUSTRIALIZATION--SUCH AS DEVELOPMENTS IN JIU  
VALLEY--THERE ARE NO HARD INDICATIONS THAT PRIORITIES WILL BE  
SHIFTED IN ANY MEANINGFUL FASHION TO ALLEVIATE QUITE SPARTAN  
EXISTENCE OF ROMANIAN POPULATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS  
OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE THAT ALTHOUGH MANESCU REFERRED TO GOVERN-  
MENT'S INTENTION TO IMPROVE LABOR'S WORKING CONDITION IN 1978,  
DRAFT PLAN FOR 1978 HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. THE 1978 PLAN IS  
LATE IN APPEARING AND CAUSE OF THIS LATENESS MAY WELL BE SIGN OF  
SOME SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSION CONCERNING LABOR'S LOT.  
AGGREY

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## Message Attributes

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